

STANDING IN FIRM SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT TRUMP ON HIS ACTIONS AGAINST TERRORISTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand in firm support of President Trump's leadership in his decisive actions against evil terrorists.

America and the world are safer without Qasem Soleimani. Not only is America safer, it is more prosperous than ever before and now energy independent.

The Iranian regime would be wise to not further test this President's mettle and the overwhelming capabilities of the greatest fighting force the world has ever known: our U.S. military.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GENERAL PAUL KELLEY

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of General P.X. Kelley. General Kelley was the embodiment of the Marine Corps. His distinguished record inspired me, the marines with whom I served, and will continue to inspire marines for generations to come.

In Vietnam, General Kelley earned the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit with Valor, and two Bronze Stars with Valor.

As commandant, he led the Corps during the dark days following the 1983 Iran-backed bombing of the Marine Corps barracks in Beirut. General Kelley's leadership inspired every marine to hold true to the values of the Corps. I am terribly saddened by the passing of General Kelley, but I will be forever grateful of serving under his command.

Semper fi.

CONGRATULATING GATORADE INDIANA FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR CHARLIE SPEGAL

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate an exemplary student-athlete, Charlie Spegal.

Charlie was recently named the Gatorade Indiana Football Player of the Year. He has had an outstanding football career, holding the all-time State career record in rushing yards, rushing touchdowns, and career touchdowns.

Finishing with 10,867 career rushing yards and 175 touchdowns, he did this while maintaining above a 3.5 GPA. Charlie has been a role model for student athletes everywhere.

I congratulate Charlie on his wonderful career throughout high school and wish him the best of luck in college.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF AMERICAN HERO CHARLES "RED" WHITTINGTON

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker I rise today to remember the life of American Hero Charles "Red" Whittington.

Red served in France during World War II as a member of the 377th Infantry Regiment and the 95th Infantry Division.

His regiment was given the nickname "Iron Men of Metz" for their fierce liberation in defense of the town of Metz from German counterattacks.

Whittington was the recipient of a Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the European Theater of Operations Campaign Medal with two battle stars, a Good Conduct medal and the Victory Medal.

I give my deepest condolences to the Whittington family and hope they find comfort in knowing that Charles "Red" Whittington was a true American hero.

CONGRATULATING SOUTH DEARBORN HIGH SCHOOL ON REIMPLEMENTING FFA AG PROGRAM

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate South Dearborn High School for reimplementing their FFA Ag program. FFA educates students on agricultural success, as well as providing hands-on career training experience.

After a 30-year absence, students and future farmers at South Dearborn will again be able to gain the knowledge and experience they need to succeed in the agriculture industry.

Congratulations to South Dearborn FFA, and I look forward to seeing your chapter grow.

PRESIDENT NEEDS TO MAKE THE CASE FOR MILITARY ACTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, young men and women enlisting in our military for the first time will enter recruitment offices across our country this year.

On their IDs will be birth dates that reflect the fact that they are signing up to fight in wars that started before they were born.

Nineteen years. That is how long we have been in Afghanistan. Seventeen years. That is how long we have been in Iraq. Not to mention the American weapons, the American dollars, the American boots, the American lives that have been sent to Yemen, Syria, Somalia, and many, many other corners of our globe.

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We are a generation that has spent the better part of its life at war in a country in the Middle East, perpetual wars fought under the cover of two permission slips that this body gave the executive branch nearly 20 years ago.

In 2001, Congress authorized our offensive against al-Qaida and the Taliban in the wake of 9/11 in what became the largest armed conflict in American history. In 2002, Congress authorized the invasion of Iraq, and it became the greatest foreign policy mistake of a generation.

And our response has been silence, silence from this collective body; silence as we have sent hundreds of thousands of American men and women to Afghanistan and tens of thousands more to Iraq; silence as three administrations, Democratic and Republican, have used these two authorizations to

expand, to evolve, to justify, and to prolong our presence in a volatile and violent region; and silence as our role has become less clear and our mission less certain.

What we have lost in this silence is hard to quantify—the lives that could have been spared, the families we could have protected, the money we could have used to do good, and the credibility we could have saved if we had summoned the collective courage to tear up those permission slips.

The vote today on the War Powers Resolution to restrict the current administration's actions against Iran is an important one. It is a necessary response to a reckless President without a plan. But it is not enough because, yesterday, this administration told us that the legal authority to launch a strike targeting Iran 6 days ago was granted based on the authority that this body allowed to invade Iraq 18 years ago, using a deceased dictator to justify a potential war against an entirely different adversary, making a mockery of matters of war and peace.

So now, facing the threat of war with a different yet brutal regime, this body must finally act to cut off any avenue that this President or any other President has to enter our people into a war that we do not want because this isn't just about the actions of a current administration. It is about the precedent that we set from this day forward.

We must pass a War Powers Resolution today. We must repeal the 2001 and 2002 Authorization for Use of Military Force. We must compel the executive branch to come to Congress and make the case that any military action that is required to protect American lives is in our best interests and justified.

And we in Congress must be prepared to take some tough votes because that is our job. It is the very least that we owe our men and women in uniform putting their lives on the line so the rest of us might sleep safe and free.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN MICHAEL FITZPATRICK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor my friend and former colleague, Michael Fitzpatrick. Former Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick passed away on January 6 after a 12-year battle with cancer.

He served as chairman of the House Committee on Financial Services' Task Force to Investigate Terrorism Financing. Over a 2-year period, the task force investigated the financial mechanisms used to fund terrorist activities.

Mike was a leading voice in Congress on medical device safety, pressing the FDA after dangerous medical devices remained in use after causing serious injury and death. He was an Eagle